

# QRIS as a Systems-Building Strategy

Gerrit Westervelt, Ph.D.
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## QRIS as a Systems-Building Lever

QRIS are increasingly seen as a cornerstone of a broader strategy to create a coherent early learning system.

- Use QRIS as a lever to increase quality, resources, accountability, coherent governance – all 7 System Functions
- Aligning funding streams new and old – around common program standards
- "Quality is a great rallying cry"



# QRIS as a Systems-Building Lever

Functions of QRIS

- As a <u>Yardstick</u>: enables public and private funders to assess the effectiveness of their investments in ECE programs
- As a <u>QI Driver</u>: shows states
   where gaps in quality exist
   and what types of resources
   are needed to improve quality
- As a <u>Tool</u>: to align different ECE standards and the funding and professional development systems that support them



# Why have a QRIS?

- Consumer Perspective
- Provider/ProgramPerspective
- Policymaker/Funder
   Perspective



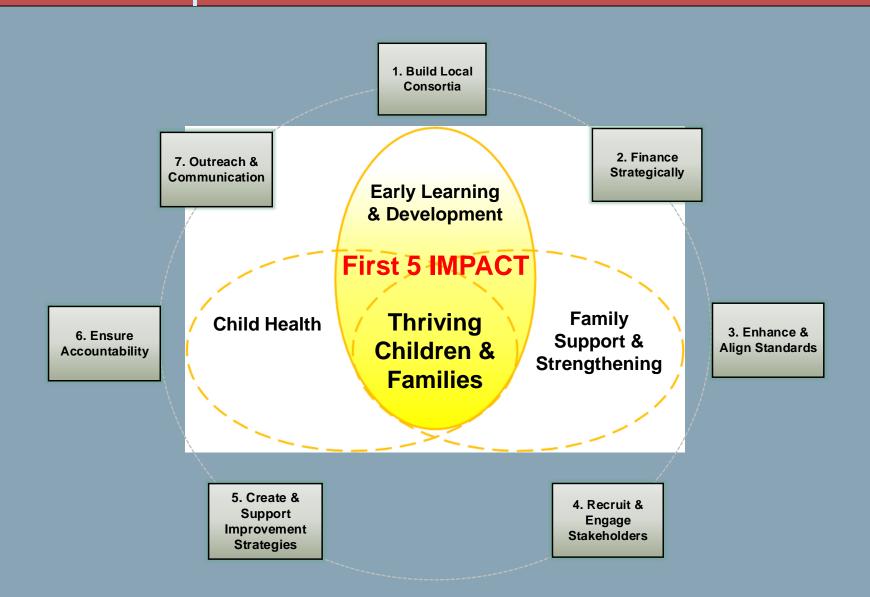
# What Type of Systems Work Are You Really Doing?

- **CONTEXT:** Improving the political context that surrounds a system to produce policy changes needed to create and sustain it.
- **COMPONENTS:** Establishing high-performance programs and services within the system to produce results for children.
- **CONNECTIONS:** Creating strong linkages across the system components that further improve results for children.
- **INFRASTRUCTURE:** Developing the supports systems need to function effectively and with quality (data systems, cross-system governance, etc.)
- **SCALE:** Ensuring a comprehensive system is available to as many children as possible to produce broad results.





## **Seven System Functions**





# **CA-QRIS Framework**

(formerly RTT-ELC Framework)

Elements in the Rating Matrix (7)	Elements in the CQI Pathways (8)
CORE I: Child Development and School Readiness	
Child Observational Assessments     Developmental and Health Screenings	<ol> <li>School Readiness</li> <li>Social-Emotional Development</li> <li>Health, Nutrition, and Physical Activity</li> </ol>
CORE II: Teachers and Teaching	
Qualifications for Lead Teacher/FCC Home     Owner Education and Professional     Development     Classroom Assessment Scoring System®     (CLASS®)	Effective Teacher-Child Interactions     Professional Development
CORE III: Program and Environment	
<ul><li>5. Ratios and Group Size (Centers only)</li><li>6. Environment Rating Scales (ERS)</li><li>7. Director Qualifications (Centers only)</li></ul>	<ul><li>6. Environment</li><li>7. Program Administration</li><li>8. Family Engagement</li></ul>

#### First 5 IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive)

**Public Will and Investment** 

#### **Child and Family Outcomes**

Children in higher-rated programs demonstrate readiness for and success in school Families access a coordinated system of early childhood services Families use QRIS information to choose high-quality early learning programs

Communities invest in young children

#### Local and Site Outcomes

Early learning sites connect families to resources that strengthen and support families

Early learning sites participate in QI/QIS/QRIS and improve quality

Early educator workforce development leads to increased site quality

Communities are aware of the importance of quality early learning experiences on children's outcomes

#### **System Functions**

#### Ensure Accountability

Rate and monitor early learning sites. Use data to guide continuous quality improvement and track progress on outcomes and benchmarks.

# Create and Support Continuous Quality Improvement Use elements of the QRIS to connect cont

Use elements of the QRIS to connect continuous quality improvement activities within and across programs and systems.

#### Enhance and Align Standards

Use the QRIS to align standards within and across programs and systems and to integrate services and best practices.

#### Public Outreach and Communication

Build public awareness and broader community understanding and support for QRIS. Increase parent demand for rated programs and programs involved in continuous quality improvement.

#### Recruit and Engage Participants

Recruit diverse early learning sites and family child care providers to participate in local quality improvement efforts.

#### **Build Local Consortia**

Convene and strengthen local partnerships to articulate a shared understanding of roles and joint leadership to improve the quality of early learning.

#### Finance Strategically

Secure and leverage multiple funding streams to support a local QRIS.



Vision: Facilitate the creation and implementation of an integrated, comprehensive, and collaborative system of information and services to enhance optimal early childhood development and ensure California's children receive the best possible start in life and thrive.

System Implementation

Assets

System

# QRIS Outcomes: Beyond School Readiness

What Other Outcomes Might a QRIS Support?

- Increasing the professionalization of the early childhood workforce
- Systems Outcomes: alignment of quality standards across program types; encouraging clear linkages between PD and Early Learning Foundations
- Enhancing family outcomes, such as strengthening parents' understanding of how to support their child's development; improved workfamily life balance



# QRIS Opens Doors to...

Opportunities
Tied to QRIS

- More money for QI as demand for help increases dramatically
- Making better use of existing dollars showing ROI
- Aligning PD, early learning standards, governance structures and even higher ed policies to QRIS



# QRIS as a Lever for Governance Reform

- CA, like most states, is "a mess that works...except when it doesn't."
- EC in general lacks Legitimacy, Authority, Visibility
- Agree on what you really need to take quality to scale: is governance one of them, or not?
- With common program standards you can do a lot without taking on every bureaucracy you've got



# How Effectively Have Other States Used QRIS?

Spotlight on Illinois and Pennsylvania

- Illinois' public-private juggernaut:
  - Effective collaboration among foundations, advocates and state government
  - MH Consultation model;
     EPSDT Summit; Infant-Toddler set-aside;
- Pennsylvania's OCDEL: finance and governance the chicken or the egg?



# North Carolina: Two Decades of Smart Start

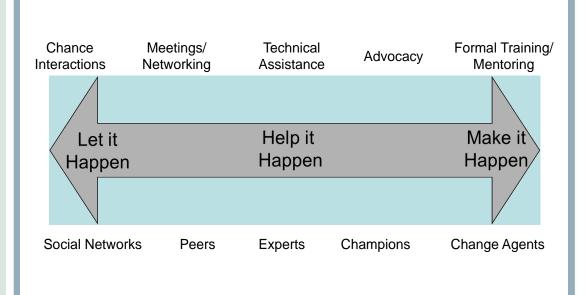
- All early learning and development programs participate in QRIS, including public school and Head Start programs
- 68% of ALL subsidized children and 94% of children with special needs, are in 4 and 5 star programs
- 85% of all teachers are working toward an AA or BA
- NC has highest rates of early screenings of all states (ABCD project)



QRIS and Systems-Building: Diffusion of Innovation

Taking Quality to Scale

### **Diffusing Innovation**





# Diversity and Equity

QRIS can serve as a lever for inclusiveness – or not

- How inclusive are your planning and decisionmaking processes? Are all voices really being heard?
- How explicitly are you addressing issues of race, language and culture?
- Examine QRIS, PD, measures, definitions
- No one has this down yet!



### **Contact:**

- Gerrit Westervelt, Ph.D.
  - gwester@wested.org
    - 303-929-5011

